

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, replace the paragraph inserted before line 1 by the following rewritten paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

B1
Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Application No. A 778/99, filed on April 30, 1999. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 365 of PCT/AT00/00107, filed on April 27, 2000. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.

Same page, replace the first paragraph, lines 2-4, by the following rewritten paragraph:

B2
The present invention relates to a coupling device between a towing vehicle, in particular a farm tractor, and a trailer having, the coupling device comprising a coupling ball arranged on a coupling carrier of the towing vehicle, and a ball socket on the trailer side encompassing the coupling ball from above.

Pages 2/3, replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 by the following rewritten paragraph:

Best Realisation of Invention

B3

As evident from Figures 1 and 2, coupling carrier 1 on the towing vehicle side is formed by a built-on frame 2 which can be connected conventionally to a farm tractor and which presents a vertical guide 3 for a height-adjustable trailer coupling 4 of conventional structure which can be bolted at individual heights, as indicated by dashed lines in Figure 2. Apart from this conventional trailer coupling 4, a selectively applicable coupling device 5 with a coupling ball 6 made of hardened steel and a moulded article made of steel is provided, which the coupling ball is inserted into a recessed bore 7 of coupling carrier 1. ~~Said coupling ball~~ and cooperates with a ball socket 8 on the trailer side formed by ~~a~~ the moulded article 9 made of steel. Said moulded article 9 does not, however, form only ball socket 8, but also forms a connecting plate 10 for ball socket 8, as illustrated in Figure 3. By means of this connecting plate 10, ball socket 8 can be attached to a drawbar of a trailer for example, and even by means of screws for which through-holes 11 are provided in connecting plate 10.

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in this application:

Claims 1-3 (previously canceled).

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4 (currently amended). A coupling device between a towing vehicle, ~~in particular a farm tractor, and a trailer, which~~ comprises having a coupling ball arranged on a coupling carrier of the towing vehicle, and a ball socket on the trailer side encompassing the coupling ball from above, ~~characterised in that wherein the ball socket (8) comprises~~ is comprised of a moulded article (9) made of a ferrous material presenting and has a casting crust at least on the interior (16) of the socket.

5 (currently amended). A coupling device as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the ball socket (8) has a lesser hardness by Rockwell hardness 5 to 12, preferably Rockwell hardness 6, than the coupling ball made of hardened steel.

6 (currently amended). A coupling device as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the moulded article (9) ~~forms~~ comprises the ball socket (8) ~~with~~ and a connecting plate (10).

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